

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (currently amended). A drive device, comprising:

a rotatable input shaft and a rotatable output shaft;

a magnetic coupling connecting said input shaft and said output shaft, said magnetic coupling having at least two magnet pairs and enabling a reversal in direction of rotation between said input shaft and said output shaft;

a first blocking device disposed only to limit a rotatability of said output shaft in a first direction of rotation, ~~and~~ said first blocking device being operational, and as a function of magnetic forces emanating from said magnetic coupling, to cause said output shaft to rotate in a second direction of rotation opposite to the first direction of rotation, and said output shaft having only rotational movement in the first and second directions.

Claim 8 (previously presented). The drive device according to claim 7, wherein said input shaft is moved and continues to be moved when said output shaft is blocked.

Claim 9 (previously presented). The drive device according to claim 7, wherein a transition to the second direction of rotation of said output shaft is a substantially sudden transition.

Claim 10 (currently amended). The drive device according to claim 7, wherein said blocking device is a said first blocking device and a second blocking device is disposed to cause a reversal of a movement of said output shaft from the second direction of rotation to the first direction of rotation.

Claim 11 (currently amended). A method of operating a magnetic coupling disposed to couple an input shaft with an output shaft, which comprises the steps of:

moving the input shaft;

blocking the output shaft only in a first direction of rotation;

moving the input shaft further; and

suddenly moving the output shaft in a second direction of rotation, opposite the first direction of rotation, the output shaft being only rotatable in the first and second directions of rotation.

Claim 12 (previously presented). The method according to claim 11, which comprises the further step of: driving a contact piece of an electrical switching device with the output shaft.

Claim 13 (previously presented). In combination with an electrical switching device, the drive device according to claim 7, wherein said output shaft is configured to drive a movable contact piece of an electrical switching device.

Claim 14 (previously presented). The drive device according to claim 7, wherein said output shaft when operational only has rotational movement in a first and second direction of rotation opposite to the first direction of rotation.

Claim 15 (new). The drive device according to claim 7, further comprising a blocking lever connected to said output shaft, and said first blocking device disposed for releasable engagement with said blocking lever such that said first blocking device is operational only prior to movement of the output shaft in the second direction.

Claim 16 (new). The drive device according to claim 7, further comprising a blocking lever connected to said output shaft and a second blocking device disposed for releasable engagement with said blocking lever at the end of limited rotational movement of said output shaft in the second direction of rotation, said first blocking device having no blocking effect during rotational movement in the second direction.

Claim 17 (new). The drive device according to claim 7, wherein said first blocking device is operational only prior to movement of said output shaft in the second direction of rotation.

Claim 18 (new). The drive device according to claim 7, further comprising a second blocking device, said first and second blocking devices are operational to provide a blocking effect only prior to movement of said output shaft in the second and first directions of rotation, respectively.

Claim 19 (new). A drive device, comprising:

- a rotatable input shaft and a rotatable output shaft;

- a blocking lever connected with said output shaft;

- a magnetic coupling connecting said input shaft and said output shaft, said magnetic coupling having at least two magnet pairs and enabling only a reversal in direction of rotation between said input shaft and said output shaft;

- a first blocking device disposed for releasable blocking contact with said blocking lever only to limit a rotatability of said output shaft in a first direction of rotation, said first blocking device being operational, and as a function of magnetic forces emanating from said magnetic coupling, to disengage said blocking lever to cause said output shaft to rotate in a second direction of rotation opposite to the first direction of rotation and being non-operational to provide blocking contact during the second direction of rotation, said output shaft having only rotational movement in the first and second directions.